

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO DEA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5065

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2209

DEA ATTN IG, MR. BELK; EOIL, MR. STRICKLER; HQS PASS TO MIAMI RO
REGION V; BOGOTA FOR DEA

E.O. 1165GDS

TAGS: SNAR PINS JM

SUBJ: MEETING WITH KINGSTON AIRPORT AUTHORITIES RE COURIERS

REF: DEA 4833, KINGSTON 2165, DEA 4910

IN SEPARATE MEETINGS ON MAONDAY, 6/24/74, WITH MINISTER OF SEC-
URITY AND JUSTICE, MR. ELI MATALON AND WITH DEPUTY POLICE COMM-
SSIONER,
MR. NEVILLE ERNANDEZ, SITUATION OF COURIERS TRANSITING
KINGSTON AIRPORT WAS DISCUSSED. BOTH AGREED ON FORMTION OF
AN AIRPORT SQUAD TO SCREEN IN-TRANSIT PASSENGERS AND PERFORM
SELECTIVE SEARCHES ON PERSONS AND BAGGAGE OF SUSPECTS. DEA OFFERED
TO ASSIGN 2 MEN TO EFFORT IN ADVISORY ROLE FOR THE INITIAL
STAGES.

ON TUESDAY, 6/25/74, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ERNANDEZ ACCOMPANIED SAIC
AND S/A'S THOMPSON AND SWIFT AT MEETING WITH MR JEFFREY MOVIS,
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MR. MCINTOSH, AIRPORT MANAGER AT
KINGSTON. BOTH AGREED TO SUPPORT PROGRAM BUT FURTHER CONFERENCES
WITH PANAM REPS WILL BE REQUIRED.

COINCIDENTIALLY, AN IN-TRANSIT HOLDING AREA IS CURRENTLY UNDER
CONSTRUCTION AT NORMAN MANLEY AIRPORT AT KINGSTON WITH COMPLETION
DUE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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BASIC PLANS WERE DISCUSSED WHICH WOULD CALL FOR AT LEAST VISUAL SCREENING OF ALL PASSENGERS WHOSE TRAVEL ORIGINATED IN COLUMBIA OR OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND WHO ARE HOLDING TICKETS FOR FURTHER TRAVEL INTO THE US. ALSO TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR ARE THOSE PASSENGERS WHO COME IN ON AIRLINES SUCH AS A DAILY PANAM FLIGHT 224 WHICH LAYS OVER FOR ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR THEN CONTINUES ON TO THE US. IN THESE LATTER SITUATIONS IT WAS AGREED THAT IF POSSIBLE ALL TRANSITTING PASSENGERS BE REQUIRED TO EXIT THE PLANE AND PASS THROUGH THE AIR TRANSIT HOLDING AREA WITH THEIR HAND LUGGAGE, TICKETS, AND PASSPORTS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MANEUVER WOULD REQUIRE AIRLINE COOPERATION AND A TENTATIVE MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (REF KINGSTON 2165, UNLESS FURTHER CLARIFICATION IS FORTHCOMING, THIS OFFICE WILL CONSIDER MR. KERVIN SUITABLE TO CONTACT. PLEASE NOTE: THE JAMAICAN ARE PLANNING A PERMANENT UNIT, DEA'S ROLE IS ONLY ADVISORY. THEY FULLY INTEND TO PROCEED WITH CONFERENCES WITH SOME HIGH LEVEL PANAM AUTHORITY AS THEIR ASSISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL PLANS. MR. KERVIN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR AS PROPER, PANAM COORDINATOR FOR THIS OPERATION AND HAS BEEN TERMED EFFICIENT AND COOPERATIVE.)

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IF AIRLINES REPS BALK AT FLIGHT DELAY DUE TO MOVEMENT OF IN-TRANSIT PASSENGERS, AIRPORT DETAIL WILL UTILIZE AN ABBREVIATED SURVEILLANCE APPROACH AND HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO WIRE AHEAD TO DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS FOR SECONDARY SEARCHES ON SUSPECTS.

IN-TRANSIT HOLDING AREA WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH ROOMS SUITABLE FOR SECONDARY SEARCHES.

JCF COUNTERPART REQUESTS DEA ATTEMPT TO PROCURE COPIES OF FALSIFIED PASSPORTS (COLUMBIAN, VENEZUELAN) TO BE USED AS TRAINING AIDS FOR JAMAICAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS. SAIC UNDERSTANDS THAT US IMMIGRATION OFFICERS HAVE HANDBOOKS WHICH ARE USED AS AN AID IN IDENTIFYING BOGUS PASSPORTS AT PORTS OF ENTRY. SUCH A HANDBOOK MAY MEET LOCAL TRAINING NEEDS.

COUNTERPARTS ARE HOPEFUL OF INTEGRATING A SENSOR DOG PROGRAM INTO THE TOTAL OPERATION OF THE AIRPORT UNIT. THEY ALSO WILL ATTEMPT TO SELECT QUALIFIED SPANISH SPEAKING OFFICERS IN ORDER TO CONVERSE
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WITH LATIN SUSPECTS.

REGARDING COLLATED DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SEIZED FROM ARRESTED COURIERS WHO HAVE TRANSITTED JAMAICA (REF DEA 4910), DEA KINGSTON WILL APPRECIATE INFORMATION FOR UTILIZATION BY AIRPORT UNIT. DPC ERNANDEZ WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE OPERATING COMMENCE IN SOME FORM ON OR ABOUT JULY 1, 1974, AT NORMAN MANLEY AIRPORT.
GERARD

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